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March 25, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 72 1 p.m. 77
Humidity " 95 " 79

March 25, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 63 1 p.m. 63
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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1918.

一月三十日英港三五號

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

FIRST STAGE OF GREAT BATTLE.

BRITISH TROOPS STILL MAINTAIN MAGNIFICENT RESISTANCE.

GERMANS CLAIM CAPTURE OF PERONNE, THIRTY THOUSAND PRISONERS AND SIX HUNDRED GUNS.

London, March 23.—A German wireless official message states:—"We stormed heights to the north and north-west of Croisilles and penetrated the second position between Fontaine-les-Croisilles and Moeruvre. We captured Vaulx Vraucourt and Morches and also heights to the west of Guisecourt, Hesdencourt and Villeraucourt."

We stormed Roisel and Marquais and encircled the Ephey heights from the north and south and drove back strong counter-attacks.

We stormed heights to the north of Vermand. The enemy evacuated positions south-west of Cambrai and we pursued him across Deneucourt, Flequieres and Ribecourt.

We crossed the heights of Savy and Rupuy and also broke through south of the Somme, and drove the enemy over the Crozat Canal. Jasgers crossed the Oise and stormed heights west of La Fere.

The prisoners hitherto have been 25,000 and we have captured 400 guns, and 300 machine-guns.

British Falling Back in Excellent Order.

London, March 23.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, says:—"There is now no doubt that the Germans are making their supreme effort against the British. Fifty enemy Divisions have already been flung into the battle whilst there are probably twenty-five more in close reserve. The Germans are crushing on regardless of the cost. Under the tremendous onslaught, our troops in many places are very slowly falling back, voluntarily and in excellent order, so as to maintain an unbroken front to the dense enemy masses."

Yesterday and throughout the night the battlefield continued to extend southwards. I hear that the French are now engaged on our right. There is most intense fighting around Rijen and Tin-court where, with indomitable valour, every foot is being contested.

The slaughter of the enemy is appalling. Twelve times did every available gun in this area concentrate upon the solid massed bodies of Germans. Our airmen are weary with emptying machine-guns and bombs into dense grey assemblies and are returning for more ammunition to enable them to repeat the operation.

To the north, the enemy is pressing hard upon the defenders. At Hermies they got into Mori, but a most dashing counter-attack drove them out and a large party were surrounded and probably captured. The scenes of activity behind the battlefield baffle description, but everywhere there is the same well-ordered organisation and quiet confidence. The weather remains wonderfully fine, although visibility is somewhat hampered by local ground mists.

First Stage Ended.

London, March 23.

A German official wireless message says that the first stage of the great battle has ended. We won engagements near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin, and La Fere. A considerable part of the English Army is beaten. We are fighting approximately on a line north-east of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham.

Work of the Aeroplanes.

London, March 23.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports on aviation:—"A thick morning mist yesterday prevented our aeroplanes leaving the ground during the early part of the day. When the mist cleared, aerial activity became very great. The enemy's low-flying machines were particularly active in machine-gunning our forward troops. The enemy's massed troops offered good targets to our low-flying aeroplanes. The location of large bodies of troops and transport were reported by our machines to the artillery and successfully engaged. Eight-and-a-half tons of bombs were dropped on hostile railway stations near the battlefield, and also on billets, high velocity guns, troops and transports. Almost all the combat took place between Arras and St. Quentin. We brought down twenty-seven, drove down twenty and our anti-aircraft guns shot down three machines. Eight of ours are missing. Our night-fliers dropped fourteen tons of bombs on billets and dumps in areas where the enemy's attacking troops were concentrated. All of our machines returned."

The Great Gallantry of Our Troops.

London, March 24.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—"The battle is continuing with the greatest intensity along the whole front south of the Scarpe River. Our troops have taken up their new positions south and west of St. Quentin and are heavily engaged with the enemy. Strong hostile attacks during the night in the neighbourhood of Jassy were repelled with great enemy loss."

On the northern portion of the battlefield, the enemy's attacks were pressed with the utmost determination, regardless of the losses. Our troops have maintained their positions on the greater part of this front after a fierce and prolonged struggle. Great gallantry was shown by the troops engaged in fighting in this area and to the south. The Nineteenth and Ninth Divisions have distinguished themselves by the valour of their defence. In one sector, there were six attacks, in two of which German cavalry participated. These were beaten off by one of our infantry brigades. The enemy's attacks continue with great violence."

Big German Claims.

London, March 24.

A German official wireless message claims the capture of Peronne and that the prisoners taken have increased to 30,000 and the guns to 600.

Sir Douglas Haig's Congratulations.

London, March 24.

The Press Bureau announces that Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, on March 21, telegraphed to the Generals of the Third and Fifth Armies, congratulating the troops on their splendid defence, and saying that he relies on their continued steadfastness and valour to repel this new attack and with it the enemy's last hope of success."

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

FIRST STAGE OF GREAT BATTLE.

The German Plan Miscarries.

London, March 24.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, wiring on Saturday evening, says that captured copies of the German plan of the offensive show that the enemy's objectives were: First day, a penetration of the whole front to a depth eight kilometres; second day, penetration to a further depth twelve kilometres; and third day, beyond which the scheme does not appear to be carried, twenty kilometres. The success attained hitherto falls much short of these objectives. The captured machine-guns include some that are identified as having been used in the Balkans last year.

An enemy attempt to cross the Somme by means of four bridges, which were thrown across last night, was detected and frustrated with great loss by our artillery. All the roads on which the Germans advanced are blocked by columns of troops and guns and transport, targets on which we are making deadly play. Rough estimates of the casualties inflicted vary between 30 and 50 per cent. of all the divisions hitherto identified, but I give the figures for what they may be worth. They are probably based mainly on prisoners' statements.

Special Prayers.

London, March 24.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has ordered special prayers in all the Churches on behalf of the Army and the righteous cause for which we are fighting.

The Kaiser in Command.

London, March 24.

For the first time this year, a German communiqué yesterday described the Kaiser as commanding the battle, while the captures recorded are credited to the armies of the German Crown Prince and Crown Prince Rupprecht. Thus the opinion in Allied capitals is confirmed that the Kaiser has staked all on the present offensive, hoping to secure for the dynasty the glory of the victory he expects.

The situation is viewed most seriously in London, but in no wise pessimistically. That the British line would bend was expected, but confidence is felt that it will not break. The losses which the Germans claimed to have inflicted are not regarded as out of proportion to what was to be expected in such a vast conflict.

The Sunday Times says:—"The German military caste are out for victory, even if to gain it they must destroy the people to whom its fruits have been promised. They must continue to fling fresh divisions into the blood bath, for the simple reason that they must have daily successes to chronicle, but with time on our side and fewer troops to meet, our generals may reasonably count on holding enough reserves to deal a crushing counter-stroke when Hindenburg has shattered his last legions against the impregnable British wall."

The Observer says:—"There is nothing in the figures mentioned by the enemy to shake the nerve of the nation, but stern news calls the country to the greatest moral uprising since the first months of the war. Reserves, reinforcements, numbers and munitions must be met in the conflict. The nation must take the last ounce out of itself during the next few months."

A Supreme Test.

London, March 23.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing in the afternoon, says:—"We are confident that the Germans' tremendous, but probably despairing, effort will fail, but the test is a supreme one. Further—more our soldiers, rightly or wrongly, feel that they are engaged in the last great battle of the war and are thus stiffening their will to sacrifice to a degree inexpressibly magnificent. The enemy's greatest pressure is against the desolate tracts across which the Germans retreated after the battles of the Somme. Here neither tactical nor territorial gains can be of much value, but for possible spectacular motives he desires to claim that he has retrieved his former losses as outweighing a more definite strategic purpose. The news comes out of the thunderous vortex in disjointed sorrows and is difficult to piece together."

At 10.30 in the morning the enemy was advancing in great masses both north and south towards St. Leger. At 11.15, dense columns were reported to be marching from Iagnicourt down the Bapaume-Lagnicourt Road through Vaulx Vraucourt. In the afternoon, bodies of cavalry were seen moving down the Ham-Metigny and Ham-St. Quentin Roads, and it is rumoured that some infantry have crossed the Somme Canal. If this is correct, it suggests that the Germans are attempting a turning movement, pivoting on Ham, in which case, owing to the masses at their disposal, the situation here may prove less promising than along the rest of the line of withdrawal. Meanwhile, the weather remains brilliant. The terrible slaughter of enemy hordes continues from the ground and air.

No Material Change.

London, March 24.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—"There has been no material change in the battlefield during the night, though further fighting has occurred at a number of points. We are holding a line from the Somme River to Peronne. Small parties of the enemy endeavoured to cross in the neighbourhood of Pargny, but were driven back. We are in touch on our right with the French."

North of the Somme River, our troops at Peronne held their position after beating off a number of attacks at different portions on this front during the early part of the night. Heavy fighting must still be expected.

The French Front.

London, March 24.

A French communiqué says:—"There are artillery actions, sometimes violent, south of the Oise in the region of Rethims, and in Lorraine between Hanecourt and the Vosges. An enemy coup de main at Hirtzbach, in Upper Alsace, broke down under our fire.

An Attempted Surprise Attack.

London, March 24.

A French communiqué states:—"After a violent bombardment, the enemy unsuccessfully attempted a surprise attack to the south of Juvincourt. There is somewhat lively artillery firing in the regions of Brie le Pater, in the Vosges, and near Lv. Montenelle and Hartmannswillerkopf."

AMERICA'S SELF-DENIAL.

London, March 24.

Reuter's correspondent at Washington says that in order to furnish the Allies with necessary wheat till the harvest, the Food Administration has ordered the American consumption to be reduced by one-half.

THE SPANISH SITUATION.

London, March 24.

Premier Maura, addressing enthusiastic Houses of Parliament, hoped the country would settle down quietly under the Coalition. He announced that the recent decree dissolving and militarising the postal services had been cancelled.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE DUTCH SHIPPING QUESTION.

A Baseless Fear.

London, March 23.

According to Reuter's correspondent at the Hague, an American Legation communication to the Press says the fear that the requisitioned Dutch ships are permanently lost to the Dutch flag is baseless. The United States has not taken any title to the ships under the President's Proclamation, but merely their temporary use. Liberal chartering rates will be paid and the ships will be returned on the termination of the present emergency, not later than the end of the war. The United States assumes all war and marine risks, and in the event of loss by enemy action in the war zone, the owners will be given the option of receiving payment of the value of the vessel or having the vessel replaced as soon as possible after the war, meantime receiving interest on the value of the vessel lost. The Dutch crews and officers will be maintained at the expense of the United States until a suitable opportunity for repatriation.

A Fresh Point Raised.

London, March 23.

According to Reuter's correspondent at the Hague, the British Minister, in a letter to the Dutch Foreign Minister, states that the associated Governments believe that the Dutch ships now at their ports do not fully correspond with the tonnage anticipated under the agreement, and that the vessels in, or bound for, Dutch ports will be found to exceed the tonnage needed for imports by the Netherlands and her Colonies, calculated on the basis of the original tonnage proposals and provisionally agreed to by the Dutch delegates. If it should be proved to the satisfaction of the associated Governments that this not the case, the latter will be ready to make up any deficiency of tonnage left at Holland's disposal on the lines of the general arrangement regarding the use and distribution of Dutch tonnage as soon as the Netherlands Government supplies the figures of tonnage now in or bound for Dutch ports.

AIR RAID ON PARIS.

London, March 23.

A Paris official message states:—"Several enemy aeroplanes flew over Paris at 8.30 this morning, inflicting several casualties. They were chased off by our machines and 'All clear' was sounded at 4.20 in the afternoon."

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, March 24.

A British Italian official message says:—"Our aeroplanes, without loss, destroyed eight enemy machines and brought down another uncontrollable."

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

The Convention's Decisions.

London, March 23.

The Daily Chronicle says:—"The whole Empire, the United States and the Allies learn with relief that the Irish Convention has reached 'decisions on all material points.' It has been generally known lately that the points of difference which have delayed the decisions now announced were of minor importance."

A Sinn Fein Defeat.

London, March 23.

The Waterford bye-election result is as follows:—Captain Edmund (Nationalist), son of the late Mr. John Edmund, 1243. Doctor White (Sinn Feiner) 764.

ENEMY'S AERIAL ADVENTURE.

Paris, March 23.

A group of enemy aeroplanes crossed the lines and bombed Compiegne and various towns and districts. Some pushed southward, but gun-fire compelled them to retreat. The alarm was given in Paris but 'all clear' was signalled in half an hour.

BRITISH TROOPS CROSS THE JO-DAN.

London, March 23.

A Palestine official message says:—"Our parties crossed the Jordan despite a strong current yesterday morning. The river was then bridged. We established ourselves on the left bank and made progress eastwards encountering considerable resistance. The operations continue."

NEW AMERICAN MEASURES.

Washington, March 23.

President Wilson has issued a proclamation restricting the imports of non-essentials in order to prevent draining the Allies and to facilitate the quick return of ships to America for re-loading.

REPATRIATED OFFICERS.

The Hague, March 23.

Nine British medical officers have arrived from Germany for repatriation, including Lieutenant Ajab Singh Garewal.

PENDING OFFENSIVE ON SALONIKA.

London, March 23.

According to a telegram from Paris the Figaro" report says the Germans and Bulgars are preparing a big offensive on Salonika for the spring. Their forces in Macedonia are estimated at 400,000.

THE SPANISH SITUATION.

Madrid, March 23.

Premier Maura, addressing enthusiastic Houses of Parliament, hoped the country would settle down quietly under the Coalition. He announced that the recent decree dissolving and militarising the postal services had been cancelled.

(Continued on page 3.)

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

NOTICES.

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ROBINSON'S

GENERAL NEWS.

A Quiet Wedding.
Major G. H. J. Everett, O.B.,
C.M.G. who was D.A.A.G. in
Singapore some thirteen years
ago was quietly married on Dec.
28th in London, to Miss Violet
Althea Wyld.

The German Way.

The German military authori-
ties have a short way with
strikes. Not so very long ago
the labourers in two munition
factories close to Berlin, who were
earning twenty marks or more a
day, struck to get better food.
Whereupon the military Governor
put them all under martial law
and on the same conditions as
Frisch in the trenches, namely,
soldiers' rations, and twopence a
day. A week or two of this
regime more than sufficed, and
they are now once more earning
market wages and feeding them-
selves.

Women for War Service Posts.

Washington, February 16.—A
division to place college women
in positions of war service
vacated by men has been created
under the Intercollegiate Intelligence
Bureau, which has announced the appointment of Miss
Lucie Shepherd, associate warden
of Vassar College, as director.
Bryn Mawr, Vassar, Wellesley,
and Barnard are among the
women's colleges co-operating.
Examinations for women inspectors
and assistant inspectors of
"mills" in munition plants
filling contracts for the army are
being held by the Civil Service
Commission. It is announced
that the filling of these positions
by women is approved by the
War Department.

New Use for Playing Cards.

Having helped many a soldier
through weary hours in trench
and hospital, playing cards are
now being pressed into active war
service. You may have noticed
the new and neat little cloth
badges on the sleeves of our men
from the front, but possibly have
failed to understand the design.
They are nothing but the familiar
club, spade, heart, and diamond
of the playing card. Under the
new scheme regiments are divided
into packs, each company
having its symbol in a certain
colour to serve as an identification
mark, all other badges being
removed before going over the
top. —Daily Ch. nicle.

Ingenious Smuggling.
A very ingenious way of
attempting to smuggle opium
into Penang and other neighbouring
ports was discovered by the
Government Monopoly officials
recently. The opium, found
weighed about 100 pounds and
was placed in walnut shells which
had been cracked open and joined
again. There are about 10,000 of
these nuts in the possession of the
Monopoly. They were brought to
port in a Japanese steamer. Some
of the nuts had been removed
to the steamer Ipoh and Trang.
As a result of this discovery eight
Chinese—four on board the
Japanese and two on the
Ipoh and Trang—were arrested.
They were charged before Mr.
Muller when two of them pleaded
guilty. The others were remanded
for a week, bail in the sum of
\$5,000 each being allowed. The
sentence on the other two was
postponed pending enquiry.

French Medal for Yale Man.

New Haven, February 16.—It
has just been announced at Yale
University that the Medaille de
la Reconnaissance Franaise has
been conferred upon Robert W.
Nesser, of the class of 1906, in
recognition of the notable work
he has done as American repre-
sentative of "Ouvre de Mon
Soldat" for the relief of the
French soldiers and their families
coming from the occupied prov-
inces of the North. This decora-
tion from the French Government
is a special distinction, having
been established by Presidential
decree last fall, and having been
conferred upon only a few, whose
services have been conspicuous.
Nesser has for more than a year
been devoting himself to the work
of "Mon Soldat 1916," which was
organized to give sympathy and
support to those driven from their
homes in France by the war.
Before his departure for the work
Nesser was made a temporary
lieutenant of the American
Army.

GENERAL NEWS.

To Study Malaria.
The projected national institute of malaria in Italy is to form a part of the department of agriculture. The relations of malaria and agriculture will be investigated, and studies and experiments will be made to determine the direct and indirect causes of the unhealthiness of malarial districts. The aims include also the adoption of effective means of removing the cause, including the extermination of the germ-carrying mosquito.

A Prize Opera.

At a meeting held in New York the winner of the \$1,000 Hinshaw opera prize contest was decided by the judges who, besides Mrs. Homer, included Victor Herbert, David Bispham, Richard Hageman, and Walter Henry Rothwell. All the judges were present except Mr. Rothwell, who is in Cincinnati. The winner is Henry Hadley, the noted American composer, and his prize-winning opera is called "Bianca." The librettist is Grant Stuart, the actor. The story of "Bianca" is based upon an old Italian comedy by Goldoni, "The Mistress of the Inn." According to the terms of the contest, Mr. Hadley's opera will be produced in the spring or in the fall by the Society of American Singers, Inc., an organization that was formed to put opera comique in English upon a secure footing in this country.

Millions for Meiji Shrine.
Up to the end of February, says a Kokusai newspaper, the amount of money subscribed to the fund for the establishment of a shrine to the memory of the late Emperor Meiji, was Yen 733,831.23. Of this amount, Yen 615,072.99 was contributed in Japan, Yen 288,980.50 came from Korea, Formosa, and the Kwantung Peninsula, and Yen 389,597.74 was contributed by Japanese abroad. A member of the Brazilian Senate and an Admiral in the Brazilian Navy, who is a great admirer of Japan, asked permission to contribute through Mr. Hata, the Japanese Minister to Brazil. It has been decided to erect the building on the former site of the Funeral Pavilion in the Aoyama Parade Ground. Prizes will be offered for the best designs for the building.

NOTICES.

HONGKONG DOG AND CAT SHOW 1918.

The committee beg to notify intending exhibitors that the Show will be held sometime during March, on a date to be notified later.

It has been decided to include Poultry provided that sufficient entries are forthcoming.

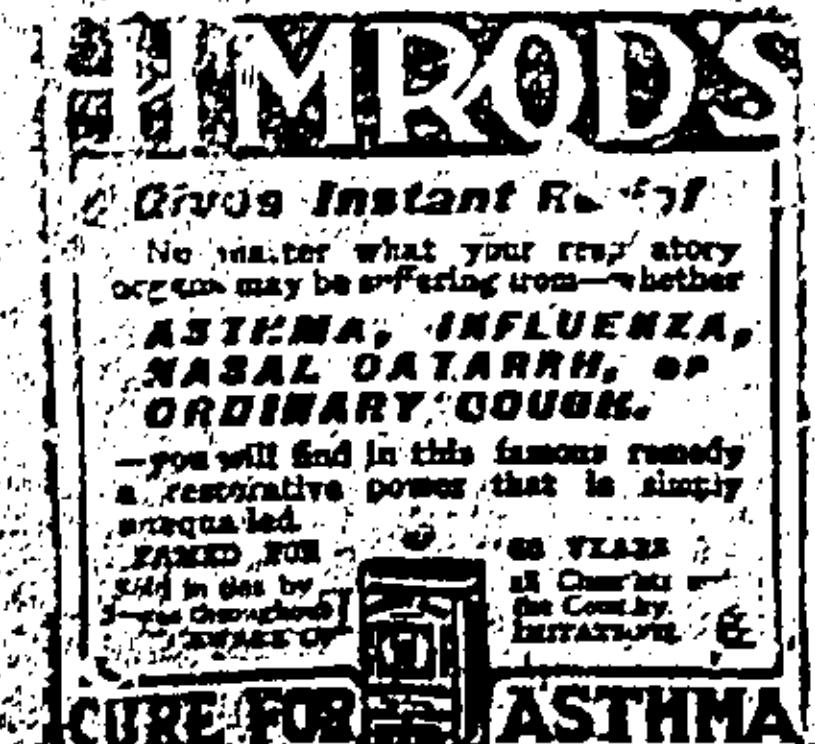
Further particulars may be obtained from the Undersigned.

G. W. GEGG,
Hon. Sec. & Treasurer,
c/o Messrs. HUGHES
& HOUGH.

NATIONAL LOAN OF THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC (1914).

SUBSCRIBERS to the above loan are hereby reminded that interest coupons become invalid for payment on the expiry of three years from the date on which the half yearly period covered by them ends. Thus Coupon No. 2 covering interest on the above Loan for the period 1st January to 30th June 1915 will cease to be valid for payment after 30th June 1918. Bondholders who have not yet presented this coupon for payment should do so before 1st July, 1918.

F. A. AGLEN,
Inspector General of Customs.



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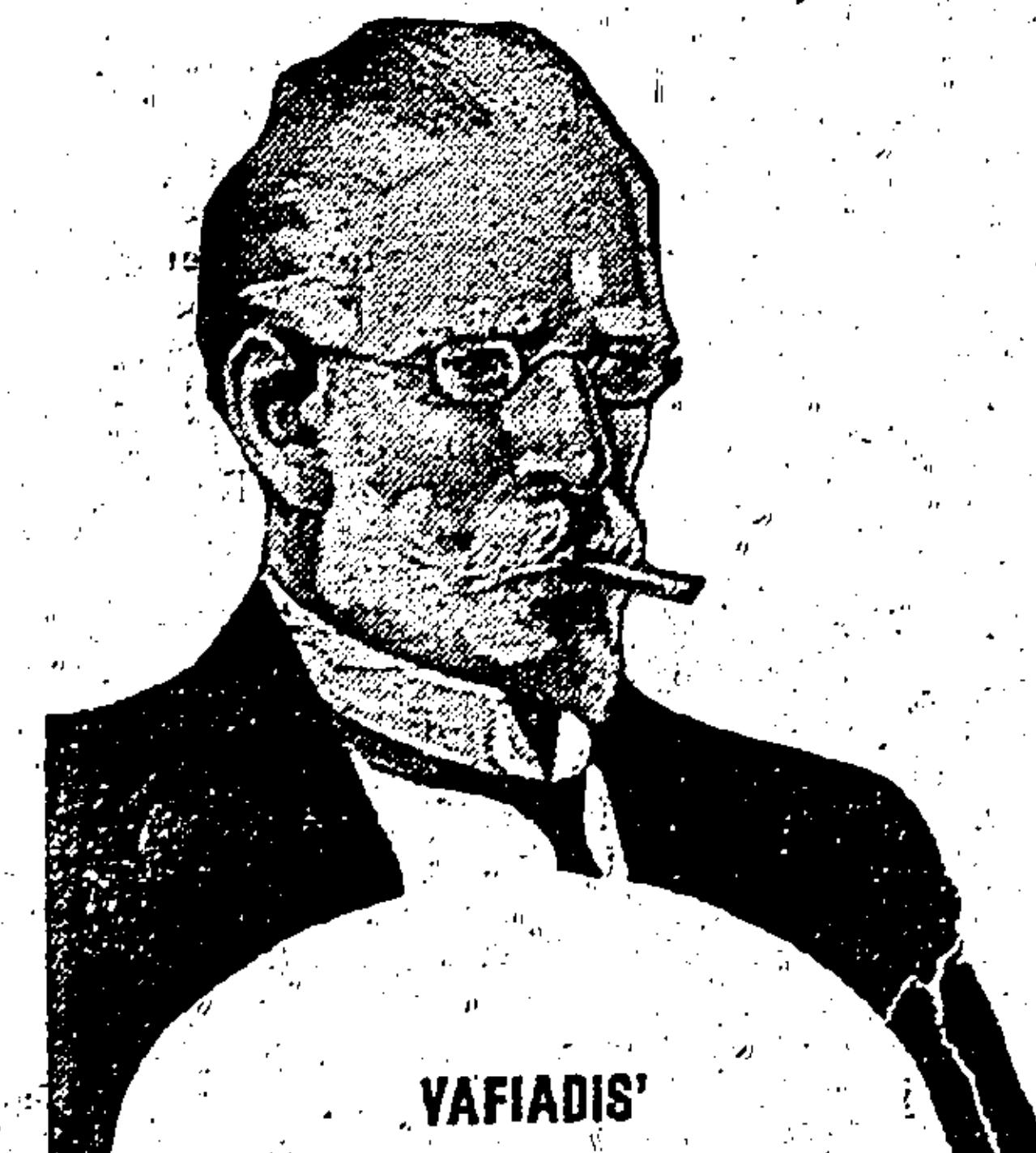
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LOCAL SPORT.

FOOTBALL.

UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE

R. E. v. H. K. D. C.

Played on the Club Ground, on Saturday, Mr. Byrne having charge of the game. Team:- R. E.—Clarke; Blumfeld, Lucas; Charters, Smith, White; Strange, Townsend, Osborne, Horlop, Pascall.

H. K. D. C.—G. Rodger, Stalker, McCubbin; Relston, Stewart, Rodger; Gerrard, Fane, Irvine, McTavish, Cave.

Much interest was centred on this match, as a win for the R. E. would make their position practically safe for 1st place, and a win or draw would still give the H.K.D.C. a chance. Play in the first half was of a very even character, the defence of both sides having the better of the attack, the goal keeper having very little to do. McTavish showed plenty of dash and on one occasion put in a very hot shot, which Clarke had no difficulty in saving, the ball going straight to him. The Sappers' forwards got within range of their opponents' goal, but the shooting left much to be desired. Half time:—No score.

In the second half, the R.E. had the best of the exchanges, but McCubbin was playing a fine game at back, his kicking being very strong and sure. Rodger saved a good shot by Osborne. The latter made some fine openings for his partners. At the other end, Clarke was drawn out of his goal, but could not gather the ball in time, and found himself with several opponents around him. He, however, managed to clear at the expense of a corner, from which nothing accrued. The last ten minutes became very fast, and Charters sent in a lovely drive from long range just skimming the bar. The Defence Corps were hard pressed when the whistle brought them relief, the result being a pointless draw.

DIVISION 2.

83rd Co. R.G.A. v. 87th Co. R.G.A.

The 83rd Co. sprang a surprise on the Gunners from Stonemasons by defeating them by 2 goals to 1 after a close game. Play was not of a very exciting or strenuous character, 83 Co. being somewhat fortunate to gather both points.

Staff and Depts. v. Middlesex Reserves.

As anticipated, the Staff were too good for their opponents and ran out easy winners by 4 goals to 1. In the first quarter of an hour there was little to choose between the teams. The Middlesex were the first to score, Stratton putting the ball into the net after the back was kicked. Soon after Wain made the score level, and Ellsby gave the Staff the advantage of a lead by 2 goals to 1 at half time.

The Staff did most of the pressing in the second half, Kirby putting his side 3 up by heading through from a well-placed corner. A penalty was awarded the Staff but Kinght missed.

The Middlesex tried hard to reduce the lead, but Lawrence at back was in good form. Just before the close, Ellsby made the result sure with the best goal of the match, giving the goalie no chance.

CRICKET.

Hongkong C. C. v. Civil Service. This match, to which much importance was attached, was played on the Club ground on Saturday, the result of a keen tussle for League points being a draw. The visitors went first to the wickets and, after a week's opening, declared at 187 for nine wickets. Witchell being top scorer with 24, and Hamill and Bird next with 29 each. Donnelly was the best of the Club bowlers, his average reading five for 62. The Club were left with about an hour and a quarter in which to get the other required runs, but time came with the score 106 for four wickets, of which Pearce contributed a well-played 49. Scores:—

Civil Service.

W. E. Dixon, o Pearce, b Donnelly ... 9

D. M. Goodall, o Murray, b

Pearce ... 2

Hon. Mr. O. Severn, o Sutton, b Donnelly ... 3

B. W. Bradbury, b Donnelly 7

O. M. W. Reynolds, o Murray, b Donnelly ...	9
R. C. Witchell, l.b.w.b Gray	34
E. W. Hamilton, b Donnelly	29
P. T. L. Noble, o Evans, b Mass	0
B. E. O. Bird, not out	29
W. H. Edmonds, o Mass, b Morgan	20
F. J. Ling, not out	16
Extras	21
Total for (for 9 wkt)	187
Bowling:	
O. M. R. W. Pearce	10 0 33 1
Donnelly	21 8 62 5
de Rome	4 1 8 0
Mass	3 1 17 1
Gray	4 3 4 1
Morgan	8 1 24 4
T. E. Pearce, o Goodall, b Severn	49
H. E. Moris, b Hamilton	5
Captain E. H. Gray, b Bird	5
F. J. de Rome, b Severn	7
Ponsonby Fane	4 0 24 1
Lt. E. Murray, not out	15
R. P. Thursfield, F. W. S. Evans, Lt. Col. Morgan, F. Sutton and D. E. Donnelly, did not bat.	18
Extras	7
Total	166
Bowling:	
O. M. R. W. Hamilton	11 0 31 1
Bird	7 0 24 1
Severn	6 0 25 2
Ling	3 0 11 0
Witchell	5 0 8 0
Craigengower v. Kowloon. This match, played at Happy Valley, proved a walk-over for Kowloonites, who, batting first, scored 181 for seven wickets. The home side could not face the Kowloon bowling and were all out for 23. Ford alone reaching double figures. The feature of the match was Cobb's bowling, his record being seven for 13. Scores:—	
Kowloon.	
A. A. Claxton, b Abbas	70
J. Stalker, o Ford, b Abbas	37
E. J. Joceland, b Ford	21
K. R. Macaskill, b Abbas	16
O. J. Stapleton, o Sub, b Abbas	16
L. E. S. Hodges, o Sub, b Abbas	1
L. J. Blackburn, not out	1
P. H. Cobb, o Sub, b Graham	1
J. P. Robinson, W. T. Elson, R. Pestonji did not bat.	
Extras	10
Total	181
Bowling:	
O. M. R. W. Grimmett	14 5 61 1
Abbas	17 1 87 5
Ford	0 0 34 1
Sara	2 0 9 0
Craigengower.	
R. Bass, b Cobb	0
T. Ford, b Cobb	13
G. Manley, b Cobb	0
J. S. Graham, b Cobb	0
A. Arculli, o Pestonji, b Stalker	7
M. Akbas, b Cobb	6
F. S. Thompson, o Stapleton, b Cobb	1
T. Pitt, b Pestonji	1
O. Sara, b Cobb	1
J. D. Norris, not out	0
Extras	0
Total	23
Bowling:	
O. M. R. W. P. H. Cobb	4 1 2 16 7
J. Stalker	3 1 6 1
R. Pestonji	1 0 2 1
University v. Lieut Wahl's XI. An interesting match on the University ground resulted in a win for the home team by 19 runs. Scores:—	
University.	
R. Ponsonby Fane, o Adams, b Henley	13
A. H. Rumjahn, o Page, b Heath	35
G. A. V. Hall, o Wash, b Adams	40
G. E. Manley, l.b.w.b Henley	6
L. D. Wright, b Henley	70
W. M. Gittens, not out	11
Ng Sua Cheng, o sub, b McGregor	11
Gregor	11
Cheek Peon Lok, st. Wahl, b McGregor	0
J. M. Jack not out	5
Sam Kwoh Leung, b McGregor	15
J. Henton, b Henley	1
Extras	24
Total	231
Bowling:	
O. M. R. W. Henley	0 2 26 4
Waller	14 0 16 0
Heath	5 0 34 1
Gordon	5 1 25 0
Adams	4 0 33 1
Cooper	8 0 19 0
McGregor	4 0 18 2

Total for (for 9 wkt)	187
Bowling:	
O. M. R. W. Pearce	10 0 33 1
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K. R. Macaskill, b Abbas	16
O. J. Stapleton, o Sub, b Abbas	16
L. E. S. Hodges, o Sub, b Abbas	1
L. J. Blackburn, not out	1
P. H. Cobb, o Sub, b Graham	1
J. P. Robinson, W. T. Elson, R. Pestonji did not bat.	
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F. S. Thompson, o Stapleton, b Cobb	1
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L. D. Wright, b Henley	70
W. M. Gittens, not out	11
Ng Sua Cheng, o sub, b McGregor	11
Gregor	11
Cheek Peon Lok, st. Wahl, b McGregor	0
J. M. Jack not out	5
Sam Kwoh Leung, b McGregor	15
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Craigengower.	
R. Bass, b	

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EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)
THE GREAT OFFENSIVE.

Magnificent Defence by British Troops.
London, March 23.
Berter's correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing in the evening, says: The offensive is proceeding and the weather is glorious. Definite details are still unobtainable. Despite our giving ground under an unprecedented weight of men and guns, the enemy gains are nowhere of real strategic importance. The withdrawal everywhere was carried out in orderly manner after exacting a heavy price. Our airmen report that the ground in the enemy's rear is strewn with grey corpses.

It has been noted that all the attacking troops are clad in new uniforms and it may be remembered in this connection that von Hindenburg boasted that he would be in Paris on April 1st. Anyway he is certainly essaying to break through in record time and as his divisions went away under torrents of shells and bullets fresh ones are flung up. Forty enemy divisions, including four of the guards, were identified on the front line of attack by last night and already some troops have been relieved. Responsible quarters are gratified at the magnificent manner in which our troops are withstanding the ordeal. Not a single division has failed or faltered. Against one sector of 10,000 yards it has been estimated that the Germans employed one gun for every fifteen yards, not counting trench-mortars. It is noteworthy that some actual retirements were made only upon orders after the troops had held the trenches intact through the whole day against violent assaults. The first dense waves in yesterday's attacks were frequently held up by our wire. The Germans halted and hacked their way through, whilst our riflemen and gunners were making a veritable shambles of the ground. The enemy fought with sturdy valor, for it was picked divisions that were participating. Our airmen are serving magnificently, tying low and attacking the enemy flying formations, who are machine-gunning our trenches. In one place eight German divisions attacked on a front held by eight battalions of ours. The front line here has been destroyed by weight of morts, but the supports advanced a great distance and not only held the enemy, but compelled withdrawal last evening of some of their divisions. The Germans have lost a certain number of guns through entering the barrage. Gas shells have been largely used. We are also employing these projectiles neutralising whole batteries thereby.

Heavy Night Fighting.

London, March 23.
Heavy fighting continued on the whole battle front until late last night. Powerful attacks with a great weight of infantry and artillery in the afternoon broke through our defensive system westward of Soissons. We are falling back in good order to prepared positions farther west. Our troops are holding their positions in the northern portion of the battle front. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is in progress.

Allied Staffs Satisfied.

Paris, March 23.
Speaking in the Chamber, M. Clemenceau stated that the Allied staffs have every reason to be satisfied with the results of the first great attack. He was extremely pleased with the results. M. Clemenceau says the British are resisting with courageous endurance and tenacity. The newspapers are most highly tribute the British defence. Some opine that the enemy possibly contemplates, after having the British reserves on the front attack, to make a massive attack on the Anglo-Belgian left wing in the direction of Calais, between Ypres and Arras, thus directly threatening Britain, but the Allies are everywhere prepared.

Lord Mayor's Message.

London, March 23.
Douglas Haig as follows: "London is watching with profound emotion and grateful admiration the splendid resistance the British and Overseas troops are heroically offering to the attacks of the enemy and renewing its full confidence in the complete victory of our gallant and devoted troops. They will remain in our prayers and thoughts throughout these anxious days."

British Press Hopeful.

London, March 23.
The papers are unanimously hopeful of the outcome of the great battle and awed by the accuracy of the British intelligence in divining the enemy's intentions and foreseeing the point and time of the attack. They are confident that the Allied line, though it may bend, will not break short of some undisclosed and formidable surprise. It is emphasised that the battle is only beginning. The assault on the Cambrai front, which was probably chosen because the undulating land in this region usually covers from the effects of winter some weeks earlier than the Franco-Belgian frontier districts, may not represent the main ultimate feature of the enemy's offensive. There may yet be a sudden attack elsewhere, but no doubt is felt that the defensive system, ceaselessly elaborated during the winter months and defended by troops inspired with the unconquerable spirit which buried the road to Ypres, will hold the enemy. It is believed the Germans are striking because they think they can win a victory that will end the war and because they cannot afford to wait. Hence failure now will mean the definitive defeat of Germany. The papers exhort the people at home to steel their hearts for a tale of losses, not to be depressed by momentary checks or to be too exultant over successes, but to emulate the calmness and steadiness of the heroes at the front.

German Feeling.

London, March 23.
German telegrams via Amsterdam show that the people are highly strung by the news of the battle. Their papers insist that the rulers have left nothing undone to spare the people a terrible blood bath. Special services of intercession have been ordered in the churches. The Kaiser, Crown Prince, Marshal Hindenburg and General Ludendorff left Spa on Wednesday for Grasse, near St. Quentin to watch the troops move in battle.

Paris Suburbs Bombed.

London, March 23.
A Paris official message says: The enemy is shelling Paris suburbs at long range. A 240-millimetre gun is firing every quarter of an hour. A dozen have been killed and fifteen wounded. Counter measures are being taken.

A French communiqué says: The enemy is spasmodically and fairly violently bombarding our front and rear lines north of Chemin des Dames in the region of Rheims and Lorraine. We dispersed an attack in the region of Belœil and Woëvre.

RUSSIAN REPUBLIC.

Petrograd, March 23.
The Soviets have formed a Tauridean Republic including the whole of the Crimea.

THE DUTCH SHIPPING QUESTION.

The Hague, March 22.
In the Chamber, after M. Loubon had announced the Allied requisitioning of Dutch ships, speakers of various parties hotly denounced the Allies, especially America for what they asserted was an act of injustice. But they admitted that Holland was only able to make a modified

COMPANY MEETING.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.

(VERBATIM).

The ordinary general meeting of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., was held this morning at the Company's offices, Queen's Building. Mr. S. H. Dodwell presided and those also present were:—Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. D. Landale, Mr. H. P. White, Mr. J. H. Wallace, and Mr. A. S. Sorenson (directors), Mr. R. M. Dyer (Chief Manager). Sir Robert Tung, Messrs. O. D. Wilkinson, the War Charities Fund, A. O. Lang, W. E. Clarke, W. Dunbar, T. E. Pearce, H. Humphreys, R. A. Dastur, W. Badge, Chau Suiki, P. C. Potts, P. Foster, J. W. Graham, W. C. Jack, H. M. H. Neame, G. C. Moxon and H. Percy Smith (shareholders).

The Chairman:—Gentlemen.—As it is past the hour for which the meeting has been called and there is a quorum, I will ask the Chief Manager to read the notice convening the meeting.

The notice having been read, The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The Directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1917, having been in your possession for the last ten days, I will, with your permission, take them as read.

The period under review has been one of considerable difficulty and anxiety; under the circumstances therefore, it is with no little pleasure that your Directors come before you with this report.

The success of our operations during the year have been largely due to the fact that we have had sufficient material to enable us to undertake the work that has come our way.

Mr. D. Macdonald:—Gentlemen.—In rising to second the adoption of the report and accounts, I wish, in the first place, to congratulate the Directorate and management on the great success they have achieved during the past year in the completion of new tonnage and this without in any way interfering with the expeditious handling of heavy repair work for which our Company have so long and justly been noted. (Applause). This large volume of business has thrown extra duties on the European staff, and it is pleasing to note in the accounts that provision has been made for a bonus of 20 per cent. on their salaries.

The result of the year's working amply warrants this bonus, and I am sure shareholders will join with me in saying it has been well earned.

It is very gratifying to hear that forward contracts have been effected for raw material which will keep the present yard fully employed for sometime to come, and a pleasing feature to be noticed at the western end of the yard is to see the frames steadily rising of the first standard ship built in the Colony and the largest this Company have ever undertaken.

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YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.

NORTH CHINA PLAGUE.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Shanghai, March 23.

Three plague victims died in Peiping yesterday in one house.

The situation at Nanking is serious.

The International, French and Chinese authorities in Shanghai are taking all possible steps to meet the situation. Isolation centres have been prepared and quantities of masks manufactured.

THE SILVER MARKET.

[R. a're's Telegram].

London, March 21.

Messrs. Samuel, Montagu and Co., in their silver report, state that the announcement from Washington, cabled on the 19th instant, is the most important event in the silver market recently. If the Bill then mentioned becomes law, which seems more than likely, the effect will be to establish the price at a somewhat higher level than for some time past, while eventually the price will settle down and remain "pegged" at about 40d. an ounce standard plus charge, which are variable but which at present are about seven per cent. The rise of three-halfpence during the week brings the price a little nearer American parity, and probably the upward movement will continue.

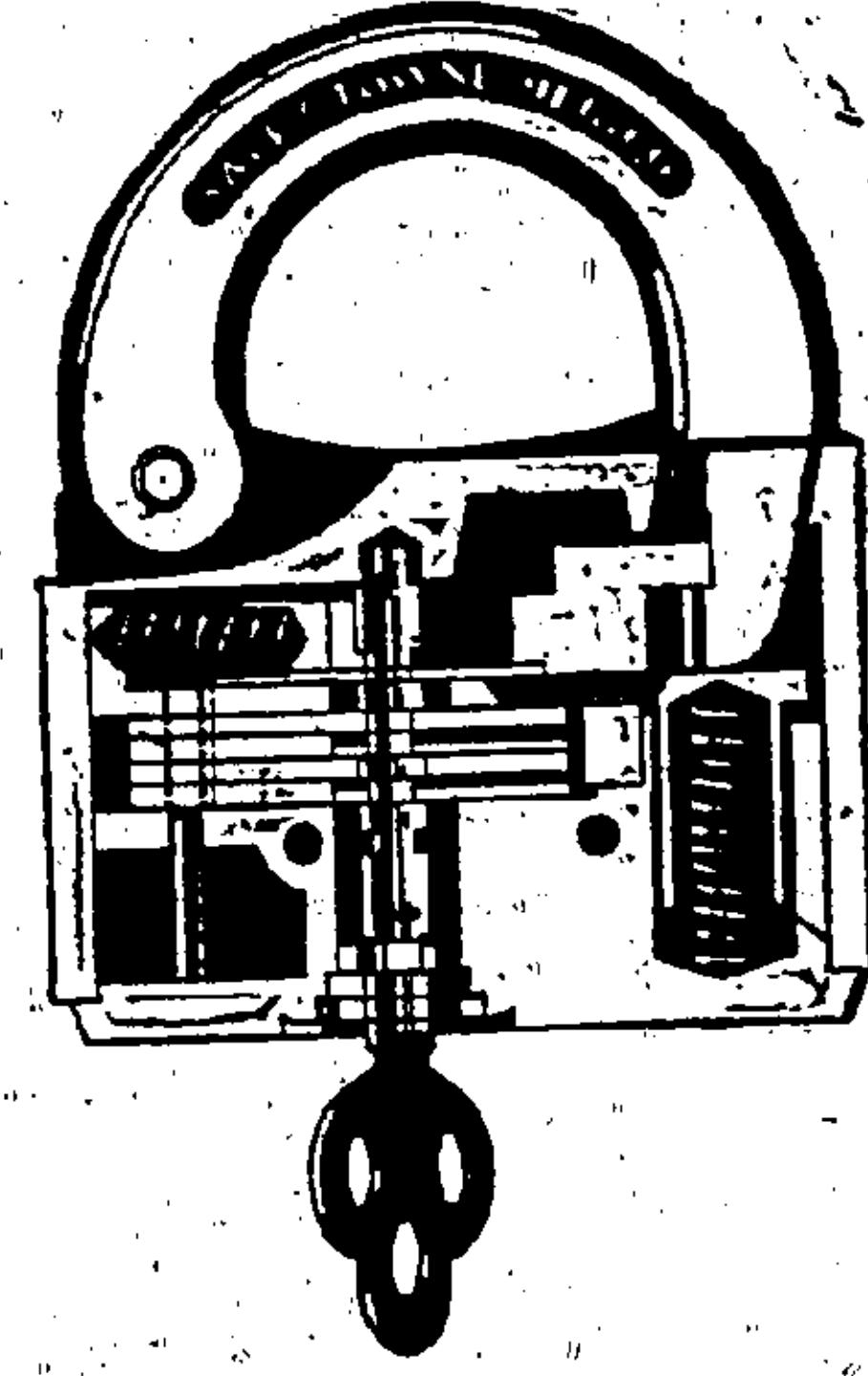
The trade demand is heavy, owing to the anxiety of manufacturers to secure as much as possible before the American scheme has full effect. The rising tendency is further accentuated by the reduced offerings. The Indian silver holding has again decreased.

London, March 22.

Silver is quoted at 41d. There is a good trade demand, and a scarcity of offerings.

Padlocks That Guard.

The mechanism of every Yale and Towne padlock is made as near thief-proof as human ingenuity can devise. Every lock offers the utmost in protection according to its size.



From the tiny goldplated jewel box padlock to the massive brass "pin tumbler" types, the entire line of Yale padlocks affords strength and security in the numberless places where only a padlock is practical.

Look for the YALE trade mark



MUSTARD & CO.

SOLE AGENTS



YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.

THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

London, March 22.

The Daily Mail says the Premier was greatly moved by the news from the Front. He addressed the miners' delegates on the subject of bombing-out in most emphatic terms. His references to the military situation and his insistence that the miners' vote, if acted upon, would mean the installing of Bolshevikism in Great Britain, had an almost staggering effect on the delegates.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, says it can safely be said that the British Army view with calm confidence the result of the splendid defensive which they have thus far opposed to the Hun hordes. While it is impossible to predict what the future holds, it seems pretty certain that yesterday's attack forms part of a great German offensive. They are "silent." They paid a colossal price yesterday for their small gains.

The battle is too big to be visualised as a whole. Nineteen enemy Divisions were identified in yesterday's fighting. Intense barrages preceded the initial local attacks, which were mainly repulsed. Then the enemy, between half past eight and ten o'clock in the morning, launched a whole series of attacks, astride the Canal du Nord, throwing in three successive waves, one following another closely, supported by massed formations of storm troops. By midday this great effort was spent, having forced our line to withdraw in several places.

At five o'clock, fresh troops attacked again heavily in a north-westerly direction from Fontaine le Comte, but this attempt was held up by a withering machine-gun fire. The Germans having established themselves at Digny, which is a position of tactical advantage, counter-attacked at seven o'clock in the evening, with infantry and tanks and drove them out again. Heavy ground mists considerably handicapped aerial work, but the weather this far has been distinctly in our favour.

The enemy is employing his best Divisions, including at least two Divisions of Guards. It is rumoured that Austrian batteries are supporting, but so far they have not been identified. Early to-day the enemy was heavily shelling the region of Soissons, near Arras, and he is still pushing forward large masses of reinforcing troops.

London, February 22.

A German official wireless message states:—A strong artillery duel has continued on the Belgian and French fronts in Flanders. Reconnoitring detachments penetrated frequently the enemy lines. We attacked English positions to the south-east of Arras as far as La Fere. Our infantry stormed in broad sectors and everywhere captured the first lines. The firing duel has increased in intensity on both sides at Reims and in Champagne. Prisoners have been brought in from many sectors. We continued the destruction of infantry positions and batteries before Verneuil.

Later.

A German official wireless message states:—Yesterday's successes between Arras and La Fere have been extended. Sixteen thousand prisoners and two hundred guns are so far reported.

London, March 23.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy this morning renewed his attacks in great strength along practically the whole battlefield. Fighting in our battle positions is still continuing.

The enemy progressed at certain points; elsewhere, our counter-attacks threw him back. Our losses are inevitably considerable, but not out of proportion to the battle's magnitude. Reports from all parts show that the enemy's losses continue to be very heavy. His advance has everywhere been made at great sacrifice.

YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.

THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE.

Our troops are fighting with the greatest gallantry. Exceptional gallantry has been shown by the 24th Division, in the protected defence of Le Verguier, and also by the 3rd Division, who maintained positions near Croisselles and northwards against repeated attacks. The 51st Division made most gallant fight near the Bipartite Cambrai road against repeated attacks.

Identifications obtained show that the opening attack was delivered by forty German Divisions, supported by a great number of German artillery, supported by Australian batteries. Many other German Divisions have since participated in the fighting and others are arriving. Further very severe fighting is anticipated.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—Owing to the mist and light being only suitable for low flying, the enemy's attacking troops and reinforcements on the battlefield offered excellent targets. Our pilots poured thousands of rounds into them, causing innumerable casualties. Our bombers also attacked troops, dropping over 900 bombs on troops at railway stations on the battlefield.

Taure has been much fighting. We brought down sixteen, drove down six and shot down one enemy machine. Three of ours are missing. Our night-fliers dropped three and a half tons of bombs on Bruges dockyard, and three and a half tons on billets at Tournai. All our machines returned.

London, March 22.

A French communiqué states:—We repelled strong enemy coups de main to the south of Juvincourt, in the sector of Godart, north of Courcy, and north of the Aisne. At the two last points, enemy detachments were driven out of advanced elements after a lively fight, in which the enemy suffered appreciable losses. An enemy attempt west of Mont Cornillet also failed. There is fairly lively artillery fire in the region of Mon's and at some points on the right of the Meuse in Woerwic.

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(Continued on page 10)



JACQUESSON

As originally supplied to NAPOLEON The Great.
The fine quality of this steel will once command it to the most critical.

SOLE AGENTS FOR CHINA.
H. RUTTONJEE & SON.

14, QUEEN'S ROAD.

Canton.

Hongkong.

London.

Paris.

St. Petersburg.

Tokio.

Turkey.

Vienna.

Yokohama.

Ypres.

Zanzibar.

SMOKED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

The Three Castles Cigarettes

Just Pure Rich Mellow Virginia Tobacco

THE CIGARETTE WITH THE PEDIGREE

IF YOU SMOKE A PIPE OF COURSE YOU SMOKE "CAPSTAN NAVY CUT"

NOTICES.**WAI KEE.**

FLAG & SAILMAKER
No. 129, Des Vaux Road Central
Top Floor,
HONGKONG.
Telephone No. 1833

ASAHI BEER.**YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.**

(Continued from page 9.)

GERMAN CASUALTIES IN AN EXPLOSION.

London, March 22.

A message from Amsterdam states that thirty German soldiers were killed and over a hundred injured by the explosion of five hundred munition wagons at the railway station at Mevringier, near Mons.

CAUCASIAN-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS FAIL.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says the pourparlers between the Caucasian Diet and the Ottoman High Command regarding a separate peace have broken off, as the Turkish demands are unacceptable.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says the Germans have occupied the town of Ochakoff, forty miles south-east of Odessa.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says the Reichstag has approved the Russian Peace Treaty.

THE RUMANIAN ARMISTICE.

London, March 22.

The Austrian Headquarters state that the armistice with Rumania has been further extended by seventy-two hours.

BYE-ELECTION RESULT.

London, March 22.

Mr. R. Stoker (Conservative) has been returned unopposed for South Manchester.

THE ZUIDER ZEE.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at the Hague says the Second Chamber has unanimously passed a Bill providing for the drainage of the Zuider Zee.

DUTCH SHIPPING QUESTION.

London, March 22.

As regards the statement of the Dutch Foreign Minister on Tuesday, that the proposed action of the Allies in respect of Dutch shipping would render Dutch Colonial navigation impossible, Reuter is informed that this is by no means the case, and such apprehension is quite unfounded. There is no intention of taking any action that would make Dutch Colonial trade impossible.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that in the Reichstag, Herr Von Dombusche, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, made a confidential statement to the Government's intentions regarding the Dutch shipping question.

London, March 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Washington says thirty-eight Dutch vessels in American ports have been seized, the Captain in each case merely making a formal protest.

YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.**THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE.**

London, March 22.
The German Press speaks of the present battle as an effort to reach a final decision with England. For example, the Conservative *Tageblatt* *Rundschau* says:—"A single combat between England and Germany to decide whether the Anglo-Saxons will continue to press their will upon the world has begun."

London, March 22.
The semi-official *Nouvelles Presses* contains a most significant admission that the Austrians are defending Strassburg against a possible French move against that place. Other statements in the Austrian Press confirm that Austrian artillery has been massed on the eastern French front.

London, March 22.
German newspapers also report the arrival of Bulgarians on the Western Front.

London, March 22.
The Kaiser, Marshal Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff have arrived in the battle area.

London, March 22.
Mr. Asquith, in a speech at a National Liberal Federation meeting at Derby, referring to the German offensive, declared that the skill of our Generals and the indomitable tenacity of our soldiers would more than hold their own. The people of Britain were prepared for any sacrifice to make the cause of freedom victorious.

London, March 23.
A French communiqué states:—"Artillery was active early to-day and more violent in the afternoon, particularly north of Chemin des Dames, in the region of Courroy, at Poissie in Champagne and south of Morcourt. Three enemy coupe-de-main north of Souis and east of Teton were without result."

London, March 23.
Mr. Percival Phillips, writing from France, says:—"The hardest fighting is on our flanks. The enemy's north wing has taken a line to which we retired on Thursday, namely, some hundreds of yards east of the villages of Vaux, Vaucourt, Marchies and Beaumont. This makes the enemy's indemnity very rough from 2,200 yards at the greatest point, in the neighbourhood of Croisilles, to 500 or 600 yards at the lower end."

We retired east of Doignies, where we occupied the Hindenburg system in November, to what was generally our old front line before that advance, except that we retain Havrincourt. The situation to the west of the Scheldt Canal, between Gosselcourt and St. Quentin, is not clear, but the enemy undoubtedly is in some villages behind our former front line. Everywhere he is shelling back areas with increasing intensity. His intention obviously is to keep throwing in fresh Divisions and to continue the terrific blows incessantly.

London, March 23.
Mr. Philip Gibbs, writing from France, says:—"Our troops were heavily engaged on our right to-day near St. Quentin. We were much outnumbered. Nine German Divisions were hurled against three of ours at one point and eight against two at another.

A soldier described the enemy's advance as being "like bees out of a hive; the more one shot, the more seemed to come." It was a return to the old German methods at Mons, Le Cateau and Verdun. The only surprise is that the enemy has introduced no novelty in the attack—no tanks and no special gas. The enemy tried, as of old, on a ruthless sacrifice of life in the hope of overwhelming the defence by sheer weight of numbers, and on gun-power. There were a thousand guns opposite three British Divisions. Nothing hitherto has been experienced by the British like the length and width of the barrage laid down on our defences. It began at 5 o'clock yesterday morning and continued all day long without pause, except when it jumped forward to let the infantry attack and the guns to advance simultaneously. Heavy guns were concentrated on our rear as far back as twenty-eight miles behind our lines.

It was during the last hour of the bombardment that the enemy poured out gas-shells and continued to gas our batteries in the reserve trenches all day long, filling the atmosphere with poisonous clouds, but this weapon was unsuccessful. The British had been trained for weeks past and fought yesterday to remark, in some cases for eight hours. The box respirators proved most effective. There were only six cases of gassing at one of the largest casualty clearing stations this morning. A number of tanks brilliantly counter-attacked on Thursday evening and recaptured some of the ground near Doignies.

The spirit of our men remains magnificent. The troops I saw to-day going to battle, the bands playing, were chatting and smiling with calm confidence.

London, March 23.
Mr. Perry Robinson, writing from France, says:—"The fighting on Friday was generally along our reserve line. That the Germans would break some sections of our front was anticipated. So far, we are satisfied with the situation. Despite a terrible hammering, the British front line fought magnificently and completely held the attack on a large part of the line. This was particularly true about Lavelan Chateau, near Bourges, where German masses were obliterated by machine-guns, while eastward by Flequieres the enemy attack was a total failure, the whole of our line remaining intact at nightfall, but we withdrew in the darkness in order to conform to the line on the left, where the enormous weight of the attack broke the front line. But over the whole front of attack our line, if withdrawn, holds absolutely firm. There is not the smallest sign yet of any break-through into open warfare. The forces which the enemy has so far encountered have been comparatively light, and his losses have vastly exceeded ours.

London, March 23.
Mr. Hamilton Fife, writing from France, says:—"The outstanding characteristic of the fighting so far is that we did so well under the terrific impact. Apart from unprecedented artillery fire, the enemy's trench mortars discharged such an overwhelming weight of projectiles that we ceased to be an obstacle on most parts of the front, and trenches were destroyed, though not everywhere, as the enemy's wire-cutters found when mowed down by our machine-guns.

Mr. Fife, describing the gassing of British batteries, says this is the first battle in which the gunners had to work continuously wearing masks. He says that when the British at one point counter-attacked at nine o'clock on Thursday morning, they bombed the enemy in the trenches he had captured and then drove him with the bayonet through the British barrage.

Mr. Fife found the men yesterday morning most confident. He says the enemy's goal of the Baillecourt salient is absolutely unimportant. The enemy generally has now attacked chosen defence positions, and the task of the British has become proportionately lighter.

THE MINERS' COMB-OUT.

London, March 22.

Despite the result of the ballot, the Executive of the Miners Federation has advised the acceptance of the Government's comb out scheme.

PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS.

London, March 22.

The House of Commons has adjourned until April 9.

ENTERTAINMENTS.**VICTORIA THEATRE.**

March 26th, 27th & 28th, 1918.

9.15 p.m. Performance.

"THE FAITHFUL GAMEKEEPER."

A Drama in 4 parts.

American Gazette No. 42

and

Nestor & Starlight Comics.**Booking at ANDERSON'S.****NOTICES.****HONGKONG ICE COMPANY LIMITED.****GEO. P. LAMMERT.**

THE THIRTY SEVENTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held at the Offices of the General Manager at NOON on WEDNESDAY the 27th instant to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1917, and the report of the General Managers.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to 21st instant both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

General Managers.

Hongkong, 7th March, 1918.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.**NOTICE.****THE FORTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, Pedder Street, on WEDNESDAY the 27th instant at 11.30 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 27th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

General Agents.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1918.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.**NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.****THE FORTY-NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

SHAREHOLDERS of the undersigned at 11 A.M. on WEDNESDAY the 27th instant.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to the 27th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

General Managers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1918.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the COLONIAL (Hongkong) REGISTRY of the Company will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, 26th March, 1918, to WEDNESDAY, 24th April, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

W. E. ROBERTS,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1918.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, by George Smith & Sons, 11, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.

AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER AND SURVEYOR.**PUBLIC AUCTION.**

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

WEDNESDAY, the 3rd April, 1918,

commencing at 12 o'clock (NOON) at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street,

The s.s. "American" as she now lies moored off Cheung Sha Wan

Particulars:—

Gross tonnage 795
net 515
Iron screw steamer
length 194' 7"
breadth 27' 3"
depth 17' 0"
Engines—Compound 2 cylinders 27' and 50' by 3' stroke.

Note: The above vessel was abandoned to underwriters and is being sold without flag or register as she now lies off Cheung Sha Wan (Hongkong Harbour).

Terms: 20% purchase money on fall of hammer when ship will be at purchaser's risk and completion within one week of date of sale.

GEO. P. LAMMERT, Auctioneer,

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from the Liquidator, Hamburg Amerika Line to sell by Public Auction

ON THURSDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 11 a.m.

at No. 3 Duddell Street,

A portion of the excellent and well-made office furniture consisting of double desks with drawers, office tables, large teak screen &c., &c., &c.

Also

One steel safe by Amherst Berlin, 64 x 43 x 31.

One steel safe by Milner & Co., London, 31 x 28 x 26.

One Underwood typewriter and a number of telegraphic Code Books etc., etc., etc.

On view from Wednesday,

27th instant.

Terms:—as usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH Auctioneers

Hongkong, March 23rd, 1918.